Every effort is made by the Department to impress legibly stamps of date and place of posting and day of delivery so that the transit time can be found out. However, because of the high volume of mails and manual nature of the job, stamps are some-times indistinct.

(c) Remedial steps are taken where delays are noticed and field officials are instructed to closely monitor transmission and delivery of mails and ensure proper stamping of letters.

कम्प्यूटर आपरेटरों के लिए कम्प्यूटर भत्ता

377. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या संसद भवन के रेल आरक्षण कार्यालय में नियुक्त कर्मचारियों द्वारा उन्हें कम्प्यूटर भत्ता देने और सरकार द्वारा उसे क्रियान्वित किए जाने के संबंध में सांसदों के माध्यम से एक संयुक्त अभ्यावेदन भेजा गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और क्या सरकार ने उनकी मांगों की जांच की है;

(ग) क्या इन कर्मचारियों को कम्प्यूटर प्रचालन भत्ता नहीं दिया जा रहा है जबकि रेलविभाग के अन्य कर्मचारियों को यह भत्ता दिया जा रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाए गए है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी॰ के॰ जाफर शरीफ): (क) और (ख) रेल मंत्रालय के नोटिस में ऐसा कोई अभ्यावेदन नहीं आया है।

(ग) आरक्षण कार्यालयों में कहीं भी कम्प्यूटरों पर कार्यरत किसी भी कर्मचारी को कम्प्यूटर भत्ते का भुगतान नहीं किया जाता है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposal to lay Rail Lines between Rayagada and Gopalpur, Orissa

378. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to lay a rail line between Rayagada and Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) whether that proposal is expected to be implemented during the remaining period of 8th Plan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Denudation of Forests in Eastern States

379. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive denudation and destruction of rain forests in the Eastern States in the Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bindhya ranges and Eastern ghats and Western ghats are causing a green-house effect with ecological and climate changes;

(b) whether new approach to modern industrialisation in these areas is also causing havoc to the natural eco-balance system; and

(c) If so, whether Government plan to do immediately to restrain the process of complete denudation of forests and restore natural eco-balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment has increased by 1560 sq. km in comparision to 1991 assessment. The forest area has marginally decreased in the States/Union Territories of Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Goa, Daman & Diu only whereas in other States/Union Territories either forest cover has increased or remained unchanged. However, no report of massive denudation and destruction of rain forests in the Eastern States in the Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bindhya ranges and